

Attorney Docket No. 50771.010100

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 to 21 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish over the cited prior art and claim 20 has been amended to overcome an inadvertent error.

The indication of the allowability of claims 7, 8, 16 and 21 is gratefully acknowledged.

The 35 USC § 112, second paragraph formal objection to claim 20 has been remedied. Claim 20 now properly depends from claim 19 and there is no antecedent basis problem.

Claims 1, 9, 12, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,784 to Taylor.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taylor in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,980 to Gaither.

Claims 4, 5 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taylor in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,269,205 to Wilkinson.

Claims 6 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taylor in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,502,263 to Rowley.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taylor in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,7987,155 to Maier.

Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections.

The Taylor system differs from the instant invention in that the Taylor system achieves pressure along the body of a subject using a dual system of inflation or deflation. This dual system is controlled by a microprocessor system/shuttle. Thus pressure on the body is decreased as illustrated by the schematic below:

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////////////////////////////////// Body //////////////////////////////////
 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓
 CELLS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 even cells

Pressure relief at:

2, 4, 6, 8, etc.

////////////////////////////////// Body //////////////////////////////////
 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓ 0 ↓
 CELLS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 odd cells

Pressure relief at:

1, 3, 5, 7, 9 etc.

Although this system produces a pressure reduction on the body, the system produces an up and down effect on the points in contact with the device.

The inflatable cells of the present system are controlled by a single distributor which can be controlled by a reversible servo motor, the speed of the reversible servo motor can be controlled by a simple timing device off shelf. By using a distributor system all cells can be inflated or deflated by the operator. The present system can effect a pressure decrease on the body in contact with the device or a pressure increase on the body in contact with the device.

When a pressure decrease is desired the inflatable cell may be inflated to 100% or some percentage thereof depending on the desired firmness of the device in contact with the body for firm, extra firm or soft.

When the desired firmness is achieved each cell in sequence can be deflated to some percentage less than the total cell pressure desired. Since pressure reduction is sequential in one direction or wave-like motion is produced the speed of the wave-like motion is controlled by the distributor speed. At any point along the body the wave-like motion can be reversed. This action will stimulate blood flow in the are undergoing the pressure duction. The pressure reduction may be effected along the total length of the

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device then reversed if necessary otherwise the wave-like motion an begin at the initial end of the device,.

When a pressure increase is desired along the body in contact with the device, all cell are adjusted to a percentage less than 100% inflation. Once the desired firmness is achieved, each cell in sequence can be inflated to 100% or some percentage greater than the desired firmness. This sequential inflation of each cell will provide a wave-like motion which will effect a massage mode.

Pressure Mode (Relief)

Reduced pressure

At:

1	<u>//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓//</u> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell one deflated-all others inflated
2	<u>//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓//</u> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell two deflated-all others inflated
3	<u>//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓//</u> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell three deflated-all others inflated.

The direction of the wave-like motion can be reversed at any point along the device. This scheme is repeated or reversed along the length of the device as desired by the patient or operators.

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Massage Mode (Relief)

Reduced pressure

At:

1	//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓// 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell one inflated to a percent higher than all other cells
2	//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓// 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell two inflated to a percent higher than all other cells
3	//↓////////// Body Part //////////↓// 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cell three inflated to a percent higher than all other cells

This sequence can be carried out along the total length of the device or reversed at any point as desired by the patient or operator.

All effects depicted above can be effected in the specific application of the buttock rest.

Taylor neither teaches nor suggests such a concept and the secondary reference do not remedy this critical lack in the Taylor disclosure.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the Examiner's § 102 and § 103 rejections are in error. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is requested.

It is urged that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

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AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: August 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Eugene C. Rzucidlo

Registration No. 31,900

Customer Number: 32361